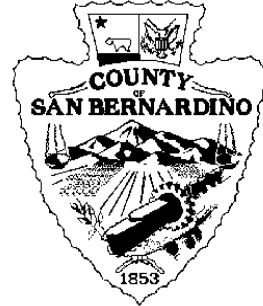


NEWS

From Supervisor Bill Postmus First District, San Bernardino County



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SUPERVISORS TO INVEST MILLIONS ON INFRASTRUCTURE

- \$7 Million for First District Includes Funds to Build Baker Fire Station -

SAN BERNARDINO – The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors today approved a plan to invest almost \$32 million of accumulated savings into a variety of projects aimed at bettering community facilities, improving County services, and strengthening public safety.

Supervisor Bill Postmus, whose First District will receive almost \$7 million in projects in the spending plan, said the time is right for the County to invest in facilities that provide critical services to residents. “This one-time additional investment in our infrastructure is a dividend we’re paying our taxpayers,” Postmus said. “These projects are necessary and long overdue.”

The Board of Supervisors today directed County administrative staff, as part of a mid-year budget adjustment, to return next week with specific budget actions to allow the Board to spend \$31.8 million to expand fire protection, improve roads, add amenities to parks, and conduct much-needed repairs to County buildings.

As of today, the County’s “one-time” general reserves stand at \$79 million. Some of the reserves have resulted from significant budget cuts in response to the state’s fiscal crisis that turned out to be less severe than originally expected, Postmus said.

The Board’s action today will put \$31.8 million of those reserves to work addressing 90 capital projects. Postmus said the Board of Supervisors’ conservative fiscal management and restraint over the past several years have resulted in significant financial reserves, adding that the County will continue to maintain prudent reserves. “Even with the appropriations identified by the Board today, the County will retain a General Fund one-time reserve of over \$47 million,” Postmus said. “That’s approximately a 12.5% reserve, which I am comfortable with.”

The spending proposals include \$400,000 to rebuild the Oak Hills Fire Station, and \$1.75 million to build a County Fire station in Baker to serve residents in the area and respond to incidents on Interstate 15. The County currently has no permanent fire station facility in Baker. The Baker apparatus are parked in a trash hauler building, and personnel are housed in a motel and depend on a prison crew for extra help.

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INFRASTRUCTURE

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County Fire's Baker response area is 4,000 square miles of primarily public lands. In addition, the Baker crew responds to more than 1,000 incidents per year, primarily traffic accidents, that occur on over a hundred miles of Interstate 15 and State Highway 127. The next closest fire station is in Harvard, 46 miles south of Baker, and the Clark County, Nevada fire station in Jean, 90 miles north on Interstate 15. County Fire has signed a lease/purchase agreement with the Bureau of Land Management for a fire station site in Baker, and has completed the architectural design and engineering for a new 5,000-square-foot station.

The County's new spending plan also includes \$800,000 for two railroad crossings in the Phelan area – one at Duncan Road and one at Wilson Ranch Road – and \$300,000 for paving on San Martin Road in the Mountain View Acres area of Victorville. The two railroad crossings will expedite the paving of Duncan Road one mile from Johnson Road to Eaby Road and Wilson Ranch Road from Duncan Road south approximately one mile.

Following is a list of First District approved funding items:

Phelan - Duncan Road Railroad Traffic Controls	\$ 400,000
Phelan - Wilson Ranch Road Railroad Traffic Controls	\$ 400,000
Victorville – Mountain View Acres San Martin Road Paving	\$ 300,000
CSA 70 C Silver Lakes – New water well (Well #10)	\$ 500,000
CSA 64 Spring Valley Lake – Replace Lakeview Sewer lift station	\$ 270,000
CSA 9 Phelan – Skate Park at Phelan Community Park	\$ 80,000
CSA 9 Phelan – Construct Restroom at Phelan Park	\$ 80,000
CSA 29 Lucerne Valley – Senior Center Industrial Stove	\$ 10,000
CSA 29 Lucerne Valley – Expand Maintenance Shop/Shed/Lunch Room	\$ 70,000
CSA 29 Lucerne Valley – Re-roofing Midway Park Building	\$ 40,000
CSA 56 Pinon Hills – Repave Community/Senior Center Parking Lot	\$ 100,000
CSA 56 Wrightwood – Artificial Turf for Community Park	\$ 50,000
Fire Station 40 Rehabilitation (Oak Hills)	\$ 400,000
Fire/Brush Patrol Units (Oak Hills, Baker, Harvard, Helendale, Pinon Hills)	\$ 625,000
Baker Fire Station Construction	\$1,750,000
Lucerne Valley Library Paving	\$ 5,000
Needles Library Paving	\$ 20,000
Barstow Library Paving	\$ 10,000
Twentynine Palms Library Paving	\$ 10,000
Trona Library Paving	\$ 10,000
Mojave Narrows Regional Park Roads	\$ 350,000
Mojave Narrows Nature Interpretive Center	\$ 400,000
Mojave Narrows Front Entry Addition/Iron Ranger	\$ 250,000
Mojave Narrows Playground renovation and zero-depth water play area	\$ 464,000
Calico Regional Park Roads and playground	\$ 350,000
TOTAL	<u>\$6,944,000</u>